

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Applicants have presented new claims 17-30, and have cancelled the previously pending claims. Claim 17 is directed to the mono component hydrosetting sealant containing as the base compound the polymers identified in original claims 1 and 5. Support is found in the specification, particularly at page 1, lines 18-20. No new matter has been added. The remaining claims correspond to the originally filed claims.

The Examiner had previously commented that the Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.132 by Alessandro Galbiati is not commensurate with the scope of the claimed invention in that the properties refer to these polymer once crosslinked, e.g., a in composition for sealants. Applicants now submit the claimed invention as a sealant, which the Declaration demonstrated is decidedly more stable than those disclosed in Galbiati U.S. Patent No. 6,221,994.

Applicants have found that the polymers disclosed by the Galbiati reference have the inconvenience that the solid products obtained therefrom show a high sensitivity to oxidation by atmospheric oxygen, which is increased by UV light and high temperatures. In order to solve this problem antioxidants and/or UV stabilizers are usually added to the polymers of the Galbiati reference before inducing cross-linking. However, notwithstanding the addition of these compounds, the solid product after a certain period of time is modified by oxidation and shows cracks on its surface.

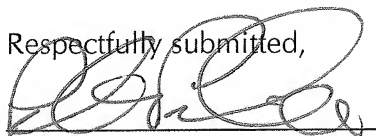
By contrast the compound of the present invention under the same conditions does not show any visible sign of degradation.

The above advantageous property of the compounds once crosslinked in sealant compositions is decidedly unexpected from the Galbiati reference alone. The advantage of the claimed sealant is also not obvious from the combination of the Galbiati reference with Quis U.S. Patent No. 4,340,707, where the latter teaches only that H₂S, when used in a polyaddition reaction, leads to a odorless product due to its high volatility.

Applicants have demonstrated that "the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of [the applicant's] claimed product" *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433. *See also, In re Fitzgerald*, 619 F.2d 67, 70, 205 USPQ 594, 596. In view of the further demonstration of unexpected advantages, applicants submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by, nor obvious from, the cited prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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